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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8081
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RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY 1426
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 2994
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY 2812
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY 0831
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY 4398
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY 4377
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO PRIORITY 3142
RUEHLA/AMCONSUL BARCELONA PRIORITY 0006
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RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 SANTIAGO 002541

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/06/2015

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [CI](#)

SUBJECT: CHILE'S ELECTIONS: BACHELET AND PINERA CLOSE

REF: A. SANTIAGO 02486

[1](#)B. SANTIAGO 02495

Classified By: Deputy Chief of Mission Emi L. Yamauchi. Reasons: 1.4 (b and d).

Summary

[1](#)1. (C) National Renewal candidate Sebastian Pinera scored an early victory over Concertacion candidate Michelle Bachelet during the first wee

[1](#)2. (C) By week's end, DC leaders had been folded into high-profile campaign positions and voiced their commitment to supporting Bachelet. The End summary.

January 15 Run-Off: Bachelet vs. Pinera

[1](#)3. (U) Ruling center-left Concertacion coalition candidate Michelle Bachelet and center-right National Renewal candidate Sebastian Pinera emer

Pinera: Out of the Gate First

[1](#)4. (U) Lavin delivered what most observers considered a gracious concession speech immediately after the release of the official results. He

[1](#)5. (C) Bachelet emerged from the first round elections with higher than expected numbers and a Concertacion majority in both houses of Congress binomial electoral system, which currently favors the two larger coalitions, is one of Hirsch's pre-conditions for supporting Bachelet.)

Initial Poll Shows Bachelet and Pinera Close

[1](#)6. (U) In a poll of 800 residents in Santiago, Valparaiso and Concepcion (Chile's three largest cities) conducted by one of the leading Chilean

Christian Democrats: Up for Grabs?

[1](#)7. (C) Christian Democrat Party international secretary Tomas Jocelyn-Holt (protect) told poloff December 16 that Bachelet was in a strong pos

[1](#)8. (C) Jocelyn-Holt downplayed the likelihood that Pinera would siphon away centrist voters. He acknowledged the Concertacion had underestimated

[1](#)9. (C) Jocelyn-Holt said it was not clear whether Pinera would capture the Lavin vote (23 percent) during the run-off election. While acknowl

UDI: Likely to Unite Behind Pinera?

[1](#)10. (C) UDI Deputy Dario Paya (protect) told poloff on December 19 that UDI and its supporters were not taking Lavin's loss very well. Nor we

[1](#)11. (C) Paya expressed confidence that most UDI supporters would vote for Pinera, although he acknowledged "some party faithful would rather Pinera. Despite past bad blood and ideological differences, UDI and RN agree on one thing: a Pinera presidency was better for Chile than a Bac

Comment

[1](#)12. (C) Michelle Bachelet emerged from the first round election in a strong position to succeed President Lagos as Chile's next president. St election?

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